

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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O 182220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1942

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4837

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PIMT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: PRESSUJE ON MRS. PERON RISING TO CRITICWL POINT

SUMMARY. POLITICAL CRISIS APPEARS TO BE REACHING CRITICAL STAGE. LABOR REPORTEDLY TO PRESENT MEMORANDUM TO MRS. PERON DEMANDING SWEEPING CHANGES IN CABINET AND JUSTICIALIST PARTY AND EXPULSION FROM COUNTRY OF LOPEZ REGA. PRESS REPORTS RUMOR THAT MRS. PEGON WILL REQUEST LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO LEAVE COUNTRY. RECENT MEETING BETWEEN LABOR LEADERS HERRERAS AND MIGUEL AND RAUL LASTIRI HAVE BEEN ACRIMONIOUS, LEAVING LITTLE ROOM FOR FURTHER COMPROMISE. ONE LABOR LEGISLATOR WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS STATING LASTIRI WAS INFORMED LABOR WOULD CALL 72 HOUR STRIKE IF ITS DEMANDS NOT MET. CONSENSUS OF SOURCES CONTACT THUS FAR IS THAT END IS NEAR FOR PRESENT GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

1. LABOR, WITH BACKING OF OTHER MAJOR SECTORS/HAS INCREASED PRESSURE FOR CHANGEING CABINET AND JUSTICIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP TO POINT THAT RESOLUTION POLITICAL CRISIS NOW APPERS TO BE MATTER OF FEW DAYS AT MOST. LABOR'S POSITION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO RAUL LASTIRI IN SERIES OF MEETINGS PAST FEW DAYS, SOME DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED. LABOR IS NOW AWAITING MEETING WITH MRS. PERON TO GIVE HER PERSONALLY LABOR'S  
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ULTIMATUM. REQUESTED MEETING HAS BEEN AGREED TO BUT POST-

PONED BECAUSE ON DOCTOR'S ORDERS MRS. PERON IS CONFINED TO BED, SUFFERING FROM A COLD AND "EXHAUSTION" BROUGHT ABOUT BY PRESSURES OF POLITICAL SITUATION." THAT SHE IS PERHAPS EXHAUSTED FROM POLITICAL STRUGGLE IS SUPPORTED BY RELIABLE PERONIST SOURCE WHO TOLD EMBOFF THAT MRS. PERON BROKE DOWN IN TEARS DURING LARGELY VGTOCOLARY MEETING WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS ON JULY 15.

JULY 18 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS REPORT THAT MRS. PERON WILL REQUEST LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO LEAVE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO "RECUPERATE HER HEALTH. REPORTEDLY, MININTERIOR BENIZEZ IS NEGOTIATING WITH LOPEZ REGA OVER LENGTH OF LEAVE. PRESS SPECULATES THAT REQUEST WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESS TODAY, JULY 18, FOR APPROVAL. WE HAVE BEEN THUS FAR UNABLE TO CONFIRM REPORT. HOWEVER, POLITICAL AND LABOR SOURCES CONCUR THAT SHOULD SHE DEPART ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE, REGARDLESS OF ITS AUTHORIZED LENGTH, SHE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

3. PRESS HAS REPORTED AND OUR LABOR/POLITICAL SOURCES CONFIRM THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN LASTIRI, LORENZO MIGUL AND CASILDO HERRERAS HAVE BEFN HIGHLY ACRIMONIOUS, LEAVING NO REAL ROOM FOR FURTHER COMPROMISE. SOURCES INFORM US THAT LABOR HAS PREPARED MEMORANDUM LISTING ITS DEMANDS TO BE PRESENTED TO MRS. PERON. REPORTEDLY, MEMORANDUM WILL DEMAND CHANGES IN CABINET, TO INCLUDE EXCLUSION MINISTERS OF ECONOMY, LABOR, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND SOCIAL WELFARE, COMPLETE REORGANIZATIONOFJUSTICIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP, TO INCLUDE EXCLUSION OF LASTIRI, AND EXPULSION OF LOPEZ REGA FROM COUNTRY. ONE SOURCE TOLD LABATT THAT DOCUMENT WAS ENTIRELY POLITICALLY ORIENTED, WITH NO ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TRADE UNION MATTERS. JULY 18 PRESS ACCOUNTS QUOTE A LABOR LEGISLATOR AS STATCNG THAT HERRERAS AND MIGUEL TOLD WUTIRI THAT UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS MET ON CABINET CHANGES, THEY WOULD DECLARE 72 HOUR STRIKE. REPORTED THREAT MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY,ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCES ADVISE THAT WHILE STRIKE ACTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED, NO DEFINITE DECISION ON TIMINGHAS YET BEEN REACHED.

4. AS THIS REPORT BEING PREPARED, MCECONOMY RELEASED  
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COMMUNIQUE STATING MINISTER RODRIGO HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT. IT WAS NOT REPORTED WHETHER IT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. IT APPEARS THAT VIRTUALLY GOVT ACTIVITY IS GRINDING TO A HALT.

5. COMMENT. CONSENSUS OF EMBASSY SOURCES CONTACTED IN PAST 24 HOURS IS THAT END FOR MRS. PERON'S GOVT IS VERY NEAR. MISSION FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT EVENTS

AS THEY OCCUR. EMBASSY HAS JUST HEARD RADIO NEWSCAST  
IN WHICH MIN BENITEZ'S OFFICE OFFICIALLY DENIES THAT ANY

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR MRS PERON TO EITHER RESIGN OR  
ASKING LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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